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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ON THE WORK OF ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION*

* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fourteenth session. The report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/48/8).

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Human Settlements was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977.

2. The report of the Commission on the work of its fourteenth session is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162.

3. The Commission consists of 58 members, each elected for a four-year term: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 13 from Western European and other States. At present, the Commission is composed of the following members:

Antigua and Barbuda*
Austria**
Azerbaijan***
Bahamas***
Bangladesh*
Barbados**
Belarus**
Botswana**
Brazil*
Bulgaria**
Cameroon*
Canada***
Chile*
China***
Colombia*
Egypt*
Finland*
France***
Germany**
Ghana**
Greece**
Haiti**
Hungary***
India**
Indonesia***
Iran (Islamic Republic of)*
Italy***
Jamaica***
Japan*
Jordan**
Kenya*
Lesotho***
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya***
Madagascar***
Malawi**
Malaysia**
Mexico**
Netherlands***
Nigeria*
Norway**
Pakistan*
Papua New Guinea***
Philippines**
Romania*
Russian Federation*
Sierra Leone*
Somalia***
Sri Lanka**
Sudan**
Sweden***
Turkey*
Uganda*
United Arab Emirates***
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
United Republic of Tanzania**
United States of America*
Venezuela***
Zimbabwe*

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* Term of office expires on 31 December 1994.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 1995.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 1996.

4. The fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Nairobi, from 26 April to 5 May 1993.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

5. The session was opened by Mr. E. C. Chikowore of Zimbabwe, Chairman of the Commission at its thirteenth session. A summary of his statement is given in annex IV, section A.

6. The Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) made a statement on the state of human settlements; a summary appears in annex IV, section B. The inaugural address was given by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, the Honourable Daniel Toroitich arap Moi C.G.H., M.P.; a summary appears in annex IV, section C.

B. Attendance

7. The following States members of the Commission were represented:

Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malawi
Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Philippines
Romania
Russian Federation
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

8. The following States not members of the Commission participated as observers:

Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Bolivia
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cuba
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Guinea
Iraq
Israel
Kuwait
Mali
Mauritania
Morocco
Myanmar
Namibia
Niger
Poland
Republic of Korea
Saudi Arabia
Slovakia
Spain
Swaziland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Tunisia
Yemen
Zaire
Zambia

9. The Holy See was represented by an observer.

10. The representative of Palestine participated.

11. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

12. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation
World Bank

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Development Bank
African Housing Fund
Commission of the European Communities
Commonwealth Secretariat
League of Arab States
Shelter Afrique

14. The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania was also represented.

15. In addition, the following non-governmental organizations were present as observers:

Cohort for Research on Environment, Urban Management and Human Settlements
Commonwealth Human Ecology Federation
International Real Estate Federation
Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
Habitat International Coalition
International Academy of Architectures
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Council of Women
International Union of Tenants
Shelter Works
Society for International Development
UAE Contractors' Association

C. Election of officers

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 26 April 1993, Mr. D. Johansson, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), was elected Chairman.

17. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 26 April 1993, the following other officers of the Bureau were elected:

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. E. Libid (Philippines)
Ms. I. Pascal (Romania)
Mr. J. Tomusange (Uganda)

Rapporteur: Mr. P. Arriarán (Chile)

D. Credentials

18. Under rule 11, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Bureau examines the credentials submitted by delegations and reports thereon to the Commission.

19. Pursuant to the above-mentioned rule, the Bureau reported to the Commission at its 6th plenary meeting, on 4 May 1993, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the fourteenth session of the Commission and had found them to be in order. The Commission approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

E. Adoption of the agenda

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 26 April 1993, the Commission, having agreed to include an additional item as item 12, adopted the provisional agenda for the fourteenth session, as contained in document HS/C/14/16, as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Credentials.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director.

5. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

6. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

7. (a) Improvement of municipal management;

   (b) Appropriate, intermediate, cost-effective building materials, technologies and transfer mechanisms for housing delivery.

8. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1994-1995.

9. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1994-1995.

10. Coordination matters:

    (a) Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

(c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.

11. Themes for the fifteenth and future sessions of the Commission.

12. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

13. Other matters.

14. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the fifteenth session of the Commission.

15. Adoption of the report of the session.

16. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

21. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 26 April 1993, the Commission established two sessional committees of the whole and allocated agenda items to them as follows:

Committee I: Agenda items 5, 6, 7(a) and (b), and 12;

Committee II: Agenda items 8, 9, 10 and 11.

22. Committee I held eight meetings, from 26 April to 4 May, and Committee II held seven meetings, from 28 April to 4 May 1993. The recommendations of both committees have been incorporated in the present report.

G. Adoption of the report of the Commission

23. The present report was adopted by the Commission at its 7th plenary meeting, on 5 May 1993.

III. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

24. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 5 May 1993, the Commission decided that its fifteenth session would be held from 19 to 25 April 1995 at the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Nairobi.

25. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the following provisional agenda for its fifteenth session:

1. Election of officers.

2. Credentials.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director.

5. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

6. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

7. Special themes:

   (a) Review of national action to provide housing for all since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver, Canada, in 1976;

   (b) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, including issues related to land policies and mitigation of natural disasters in human settlements.

8. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1996-1997.

9. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1996-1997.

10. Coordination matters:

   (a) Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;

   (b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

   (c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.

11. Themes for the sixteenth and future sessions of the Commission.

12. Other matters.

13. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the sixteenth session of the Commission.

14. Adoption of the report of the session.

15. Closure of the session.

IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

26. In her closing remarks, the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) said that the Commission had responded to the request of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) by providing two clearly defined themes for the Conference. She referred to many issues that delegations had dealt with including strengthening the role of the Centre, the contribution of shelter to employment-generation and poverty alleviation, coordination with other United Nations bodies, especially the United Nations Environment Programme, the role of women in human settlements and development, reconstruction after natural disasters and war and conflicts, the human right to adequate housing, and the legitimate rights of the poor. She underscored the importance of management tools and in that context referred to the Housing Indicators Programme as an important instrument for the successful implementation of national shelter strategies and for the in-country preparation and reporting process for the Habitat II Conference. She also referred to the need to reach out to all national and local constituencies in a participatory process, including non-governmental and community-based organizations and women's groups.

27. In conclusion, she paid tribute to Dr. A. Ramachandran for his leadership, which had created a strong institutional base for action and progress.

28. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman thanked the other members of the Bureau, the Chairmen of the regional groups, and all representatives for their contributions to the successful completion of the work of the fourteenth session of the Commission.

29. In their closing statements, the representatives of the regional groups expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for the hospitality that they had extended to all participants and for the excellent support they had given the Commission at its fourteenth session.

30. The Chairman then declared the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements closed.

ANNEX I

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its fourteenth session

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A. Resolutions

1. Resolution requiring action by the General Assembly

14/1. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 43/181 of 20 December 1988 and 46/163 of 19 December 1991 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recalling also Commission resolutions 12/1 of 3 May 1989 and 13/1 of 8 May 1991 on the Global Strategy,

Recognizing that the operational focus of the Global Strategy is action at the national level and that regular monitoring of the impact of the national shelter strategy on the shelter situation in Member States is a crucial aspect of the implementation of the Strategy,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director entitled "Women's participation in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", a/

Noting that the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) will undertake a mid-term review of the implementation of the Global Strategy,

Recognizing the importance of improved performance by national and local authorities, as well as the involvement of the formal and informal private sector, non-governmental and community-based organizations, the household sector and others associated with formulation, implementation and monitoring of national shelter strategies,

Having noted with concern that, apart from other constraints on the housing sector, resource shortages and competing priorities faced by most developing countries have curtailed their ability to implement fully the Global Strategy so far,

1. Adopts the third report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, b/ including the Plan of Action for 1994-1995, c/ and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to transmit it to the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 43/181;

2. Takes note with satisfaction of the reports from Member States which indicate that many Governments have taken concrete steps to revise their existing national shelter strategies or to formulate new strategies based on the principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

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a/ HS/C/14/2/Add.3.

b/ HS/C/14/4 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.2. Subsequently issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/48/8/Add.1).

c/ A/48/8/Add.1, annex, appendix.

3. Urges Governments to continue to prepare annual progress reports, using the monitoring guidelines for national shelter strategies, and to publicize them within their countries, particularly on World Habitat Day, and also to submit them to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

4. Invites Governments to intensify their efforts towards the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies, using the Guidelines for National Action contained in section III of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 d/ and the Plan of Action for 1994-1995; c/

5. Invites Governments to pay particular attention to the recommendations contained in chapter 7 of Agenda 21 e/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

6. Recommends that all Governments adopt a cost-effective monitoring system for national shelter strategies by applying the Shelter Sector Performance Indicators to the extent feasible as a means of assessing the performance of the national shelter sector, taking into account the Global Strategy for Shelter guidelines for monitoring national shelter strategies and taking into account local conditions and sensitivity to gender considerations;

7. Requests the Executive Director to continue and enhance the support given to the efforts of the member countries by collecting and disseminating information on successful country experiences in various aspects of the human settlements sector and providing technical assistance and training on economically, socially and environmentally sustainable enabling policies and strategies and on practical ways and means of formulating, adopting and implementing them;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to collaborate with relevant capacity-building and other programmes executed by other agencies, such as the Capacity 21 Programme of the United Nations Development Programme, in order to provide specific assistance to developing countries in adopting enabling strategies;

9. Further requests the Executive Director, when preparing the mid-term review of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), as requested by the General Assembly, to pay special attention to the lessons learned by member countries in their efforts to translate the general principles of the enabling and strategic approach of the Global Strategy into practice;

10. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a report to the Commission at its fifteenth session on the implementation of the next phase of the Global Strategy;

11. Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption, at its forty-eighth session, of the following draft resolution:

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d/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

e/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy,

"Recalling also its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in which it affirmed that a mid-term review of the implementation of the Global Strategy should be conducted at the Conference,

"Noting with satisfaction the recognition of the renewed commitment to the Global Strategy expressed in Agenda 21, a/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"Bearing in mind the high potentials of enabling shelter strategies, which rely on labour-intensive and locally based technologies, to generate employment, demand for local products and savings and, thereby, promote economic development and poverty reduction,

"Bearing in mind also that enabling strategies typically include activities such as institutional reforms, revision of building codes and regulations, and steps aimed at facilitating the access of the poor to critical resources, especially land and finance, which can best be implemented through partnership arrangements among the public, private and community sectors, and the empowerment of the poor and of women,

"Convinced that the concept of enabling strategies synthesizes the lessons learned in the development of living conditions since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver in 1976, and that wide commitment to the implementation of such strategies represents the only viable way of reversing the deteriorating trend of those conditions,

"Recognizing that, since the adoption of the Global Strategy, additional weight has been given to and further insights have been reached into several essential aspects of enabling shelter strategies, such as the requirement of gender-sensitivity and their potentials for contributing to environmentally sustainable development,

"Aware of the pivotal role of adequate information in the proper diagnosis of the outcomes, opportunities and constraints of current housing processes, and in assessing the impact of policies, strategies and programmes thereon,

"Having considered the third report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, b/

"Noting with satisfaction that a number of Governments have initiated or reformulated national shelter strategies, based on the principles of enabling all actors in the shelter sector, and that many other Governments have initiated action on particular components of a national shelter strategy, and further that a number of Governments have commenced a process for applying selected indicators for monitoring the progress and efficiency of their national shelter strategies,

"Noting also with satisfaction the support given to the implementation of the Global Strategy by donor Governments, international bodies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

"Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national and international levels for the implementation of the Global Strategy,

"1. Commends Governments which are already revising, consolidating, formulating or implementing their national shelter strategies based on the enabling principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

"2. Urges all Governments to adopt and/or strengthen integrated national shelter strategies based on the enabling approach and principles of social, economic and environmental sustainability, and to review them regularly with a view to ensuring the improvement of living conditions, particularly of the rural and urban poor, women and the homeless;

"3. Recommends that all Governments adopt a cost-effective system for monitoring progress of the national shelter strategy and adopt as far as is feasible guidelines for monitoring national shelter strategies and the application of shelter sector performance indicators, taking into account local conditions and sensitivity to gender considerations, when assessing the performance of the shelter sector, and publicize them within their countries, particularly on World Habitat Day, and also submit them to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in order to enable that officer to prepare the reports on the implementation of the Global Strategy for consideration by the Commission on Human Settlements;

"4. Also urges Governments to integrate fully the environmental dimension in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies, taking into account the relevant components of Agenda 21; e/

"5. Invites Governments to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, in order to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy;

"6. Urges the international community to strengthen its support to national efforts to formulate and implement enabling shelter strategies in developing countries, as recommended in Agenda 21;

"7. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide increased financial and other support to Governments on the basis of an approach consistent with the Global Strategy for the implementation of the Global Strategy's Plan of Action;

"8. Adopts the Plan of Action for 1994-1995 for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, c/ and urges all Governments, relevant United Nations and private sector organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to prepare and implement their specific plans of action."

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

B. Other resolutions

14/2. Progress report of the Executive Director on activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Having received with satisfaction the progress report of the Executive Director on activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) f/ and commended the Executive Director on the quality of this report,

Recognizing that the content and the form of the progress reports of the Executive Director on activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) have assumed a traditional format over the years sanctioned by the Commission on Human Settlements,

Aware that new problems and future challenges, especially new tasks of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), demand new approaches and new strategies,

Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to include in future reports, in addition to a review of past significant activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat):

(a) Assessment of implementation by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) of past decisions of the Commission on Human Settlements and relevant decisions of other United Nations bodies;

(b) General strategy and implementation plans of main decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements and the assessment of the relevance to its work of the future activities of other United Nations agencies.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/3. Shelter, employment and the poor

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 13/10 of 8 May 1991 entitled "Shelter for the population affected by extreme poverty",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 entitled "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", which included the improvement of the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas as one of the major concerns of the Conference,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992 on the convening of a world summit for social development, with the following three core issues:

(a) Enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups;

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f/ HS/C/14/2.

(b) Alleviation and reduction of poverty;

(c) Expansion of productive employment,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to coordinate its research and development activities on employment-intensive shelter activities with those of the International Labour Office,

Aware that the problems of those affected by extreme poverty may require direct intervention by Governments or other agents to achieve improved shelter and living conditions,

Recognizing that the potential for income generation by low-income households at present lies primarily in the informal sector,

Cognizant of the importance of home-based enterprises for income generation for the poor and in particular for women in urban areas,

Recognizing further that those programmes of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) which actively support community-level activities provide an appropriate instrument for a sustainable approach to poverty alleviation in urban low-income communities,

1. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the report entitled "The relationship between underemployment and unemployment and shelter provision"; g/

2. Calls upon the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the International Labour Office to intensify their cooperation in coordinating research and operational activities on employment-generation and labour-intensive programmes, including solutions for the involvement of no-income groups;

3. Urges Governments, particularly those in developing countries, to give active support to labour-intensive technologies in the delivery of shelter, infrastructure and services, and to encourage the training and use of the unemployed in such activities;

4. Calls upon Governments to pay increased attention to the problems of the poor by supporting the informal sector and by introducing legislation that bridges the gap between formal-sector and informal-sector activities;

5. Urges Governments to promote building codes, standards and regulations that allow for the use of locally available materials, and labour-intensive technologies, thereby facilitating the physical improvement of human settlements;

6. Recommends that Governments facilitate the participation of small-scale, labour-intensive enterprises in public works activities;

7. Further urges Governments to support the establishment and expansion of:

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g/ HS/C/14/2/Add.2.

(a) Feasible community-based credit mechanisms catering for the needs of the urban poor;

(b) Feasible credit and loan systems for small-scale enterprises and their linkage to formal institutions;

8. Requests the Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental meeting, should additional resources become available and in collaboration with interested countries, on strategies for poverty reduction through employment-intensive modes of delivering shelter, infrastructure and services in low-income urban communities, with the purpose of defining the scope for national action and international cooperation in this field;

9. Also requests the Executive Director to report on the potential of employment-intensive shelter programmes to the World Summit for Social Development in 1995;

10. Further requests the Executive Director to increase the support of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to interested countries in introducing new building legislation;

11. Urges the Executive Director to increase the efforts to assist countries with employment-intensive approaches to housing, infrastructure and services supply (including home-based enterprises) through pilot projects that include support for community-based credit systems catering to the needs of individual households and credit and loan systems for small-scale enterprises;

12. Urges Governments and donor agencies to provide financial support for such activities.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/4. Promoting the advancement of women in human settlements development

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990 on recommendations and conclusions arising from the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, h/

Recognizing the role of women in shelter issues as a key component in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 d/ and the importance of empowering women to participate in this process and making their participation visible,

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h/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

Recalling also its resolution 13/13 of 8 May 1991 on promoting the advancement of women in human settlements development and management, in which it urged Governments to identify the methods that strengthen the role of women in settlement and development,

Aware of the need to adopt urgent measures to facilitate the implementation of effective programmes aimed at full and equal participation of women in the development process,

Deeply concerned about the continued increase of widespread poverty in a large number of developing countries and, in particular, about the fact that households headed by women represent a considerable proportion of households living in extreme poverty,

Also concerned over the fact that many societies still do not give legal rights to housing and land for women or access to credit,

Realizing that access to land, to housing and to credit constitute essential prerequisites for the realization of the full participation and empowerment of women, especially for women heading households,

1. Urges all Governments to implement measures in the development of a shelter strategy which strengthen the participation and empowerment of women in settlement development and management at local, regional and national levels;

2. Further urges Governments to review and, if necessary, repeal any gender-discriminatory legislation in the field of human settlements development;

3. Invites active collaboration between Governments, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and relevant non-governmental organizations at international and national levels as well as community-based organizations in the implementation of measures to improve the condition of women in the design, development, governing and management of human settlements;

4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue to strengthen the role and competence of the Centre in gender-sensitive shelter-strategy development, and to increase efforts to provide support to Governments in this field, particularly through the Urban Management Programme;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to review the set of key indicators which are being developed for monitoring shelter sector performance in terms of their gender sensitivity and to include indicators that are conducive to identifying the possibly disadvantaged position of women in the housing sector in the Shelter Sector Performance Indicators;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to formulate guidelines on legal rights to house and land tenure and access to credit for women, particularly for women heading households;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to incorporate the above-mentioned measures in all relevant parts of the work programme of the Centre for the biennium 1994-1995;

8. Requests the Executive Director to prepare a substantive contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995, either separately or in conjunction with special themes, to be considered at its fifteenth session, with a view to providing advice on practical and concrete action on settlements issues;

9. Requests the Executive Director to use the above-mentioned contribution and other relevant outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women as an essential part of the documentation for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

10. Invites Governments to continue, and if possible, to increase their support through the various financial mechanisms of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to this programme area;

11. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/5. Role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in disaster and post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987, designating the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and resolution 43/202 of 20 December 1988,

Noting that natural disasters and those resulting from the actions of human beings (including wars) are increasingly causing loss of life, damage to property and harm to the environment, and that they often create massive population displacements and the need for major resettlement programmes,

Cognizant that the impact of disasters is generally greater in human settlements since they are, after all, concentrations of economic, productive and social activities and consequently of the built environment,

Acknowledging that reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts after massive destruction are still perceived as rebuilding efforts, reconstructing what has been damaged or destroyed to return to the pre-disaster situation,

Supporting the view contained in chapter 7, section F, of Agenda 21, e/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which recognizes that reconstruction presents the opportunity to build anew, improving on what existed before, and that the sizeable reconstruction investments should be used to generate new economic growth and strengthen social institutions, and concludes that reconstruction and rehabilitation can and should be development oriented,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) play an active role in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Post-War and Disaster Reconstruction and Rehabilitation recently established, headed by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, particularly taking into account the need for the Centre to make an early contribution to the continuum of relief, rehabilitation and development activities of the United Nations system;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to bring the present resolution to the attention of the Secretary-General and of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/6. The human right to adequate housing

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling that the human right to adequate housing is legally enshrined in a range of international treaties and other agreements, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and others,

Conscious of the right and legitimate need of everyone to adequate shelter in which to live in peace and dignity,

Reaffirming the goals and objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Reaffirming also the explicit references contained in the Global Strategy concerning the human right to adequate housing,

Recognizing the important role played by the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Commission on Human Settlements within the United Nations system and as a key forum to improve coordination and the exchange of experiences between relevant organizations towards promoting the full realization of the human right to adequate housing by all States Members of the United Nations,

Concerned that in excess of one billion persons are either homeless or reside in inadequate housing conditions,

Encouraged by the decision of the Commission on Human Rights i/ towards recommending the approval of the appointment by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of Mr. Rajindar Sachar as Special Rapporteur on Promoting the Realization of the Right to Adequate Housing,

Also encouraged by the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning the implementation of the right to adequate housing as contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in particular General Comment No. 4 on the Right to Adequate Housing, adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its sixth session, i/

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i/ See E/CN.4/1993/L.11/Add.4, p. 6.

i/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 3 (E/1992/23), p. 114.

Recognizing the central importance of grass-roots democratic participation in the process leading towards the full realization of the right to adequate housing,

Mindful of the ongoing difficulties of States to ensure the right to adequate housing to all, as well as the international nature of many of these impediments,

1. Encourages all States that have not yet done so to ratify all international treaties containing the human right to adequate housing, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

2. Invites all States to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur on Promoting the Realization of the Right to Adequate Housing and to submit to him any information they deem relevant towards the completion of his tasks;

3. Urges all States to cease any practices which could or do result in infringements of the human right to adequate housing, in particular the practice of forced mass evictions and any form of racial or other discrimination in the housing sphere;

4. Invites all States to repeal, reform or amend any existing legislation, policies, programmes or projects which in any manner negatively affect the realization of the right to adequate housing;

5. Encourages all States to take steps, according to their available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the right to adequate housing by appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures;

6. Urges all States to comply with existing international agreements concerning the right to adequate housing, and to this end to establish, in accordance with the human settlements parts of international human rights law, appropriate monitoring mechanisms to provide, for national and international consideration, accurate data and indicators on the extent of homelessness, inadequate housing conditions, persons without security of tenure and other issues arising from the right to adequate housing and providing insights into policy, structural and other impediments to the efficient operation of the shelter sector;

7. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to bring the present resolution to the attention of all States, with a view to soliciting their views on how the human right to adequate housing can most effectively be implemented and monitored;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to prepare a background document for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements outlining practical contributions which could be made by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) towards promoting, ensuring and protecting the realization of the right to adequate housing, as well as how the Centre reviews its role in this respect and how most effectively an integrated monitoring system can be developed between the Centre and the United Nations human rights bodies;

9. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat II) to be convened in 1996 consider the question of the human right to adequate housing.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/7. Strengthening of regional activities

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Aware that the implementation of such programmes as the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, and the relevant parts of Agenda 21, e/ and technical cooperation activities requires, in order to be more effectively implemented, a policy of locally responsive and cost-effective administration of activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Believing that strengthening operational activities and implementation of programmes in the regions would help Member Governments to take advantage of the resources and assistance of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) more in tune with regional needs,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to give high priority to regional activities with a regional focus within the framework of the Centre's development-oriented efforts, and to initiate the process of strengthening regional activities and restructuring the network of regional offices, where necessary, with due regard to available staff and material resources;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to submit a report to the Commission at its fifteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and proposals to accomplish the objective of strengthening regional activities, bearing in mind other relevant resolutions of the Commission on this subject.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/8. Assistance to Cuba

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Aware of the natural disaster called "the Storm of the Century", which recently affected the Republic of Cuba, causing loss of human life and considerable material damage to its economy and infrastructure, especially the housing sector,

Recognizing that countries, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other international organizations, have provided assistance to Cuba, and that this assistance is still insufficient given the magnitude of the disaster,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/228 of 15 April 1993 concerning emergency assistance to Cuba,

Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution, to

arrange to provide technical and other forms of assistance to Cuba, especially in the reconstruction and development of the housing sector, as well as in the preservation of urban areas located in zones likely to be affected by other natural disasters.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/9. Housing requirements for the Palestinian people*

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling Security Council resolution 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980,

Recalling also the relevant General Assembly resolutions on assistance to the Palestinian people and living conditions of the Palestinian people, in particular, resolutions 40/170 of 17 December 1985 and 42/190 of 11 December 1987,

Recalling its resolution 13/6 of 8 May 1991,

Noting with satisfaction the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on housing requirements of the Palestinian people, k/

Noting also that bilateral peace talks are now taking place in Washington D.C. between delegations from Palestine and Israel which will include housing issues,

Considering that the issue of housing for the Palestinian people falls within the mandate of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

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* Adopted by 16 votes to 1, with 24 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Austria, Botswana, Canada, China, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Absent: Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Haiti, Jamaica, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Venezuela.

k/ HS/C/14/2/Add.1.

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and in cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, to take all the appropriate measures for the implementation of a national Palestinian housing strategy in the light of the report of the Executive Director and the recommendations contained therein in accordance with the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, as soon as possible;

2. Calls upon the Israeli occupation authorities to implement the following in order to enable the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories to secure their housing requirements:

(a) To put an end to the confiscation of Palestinian lands and the establishment of settlements to house the new immigrants;

(b) To refrain from applying policies that prevent and hamper the issuance of building permits to the Palestinian people;

(c) To refrain from applying policies and practices that prohibit the production and development of local building materials in the occupied territories, and others that limit the import of appropriate building materials;

(d) To end the application of laws that prevent the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories from establishing their national housing-finance institutions;

(e) To lift sanctions imposed on funding and financial aid for housing from international, Arab and regional institutions to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories;

3. Calls upon the international donor community to increase technical assistance, grant assistance and investment needed for an overall solution to the housing problems of the Palestinian people, thus ameliorating the standard of living of the Palestinian people;

4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take appropriate measures and conduct consultations with a view to facilitating the training and formation of the required Palestinian technical cadres necessary to secure the national housing requirements for the Palestinian people;

5. Requests the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to consider the housing requirements of the Palestinian people in the agenda for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), due to be held in Turkey in June 1996;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to present a comprehensive report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its fifteenth session.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/10. Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 8/1 of 10 May 1985, in which it decided that sessions of the Commission would be held only during odd-numbered years,

Recalling also its resolution 13/3 of 8 May 1991, in which it decided to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to meet informally, at least four times a year, with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to review progress in the implementation of the programme of the Centre and of Commission resolutions, as well as specific issues proposed by the Permanent Representatives or by the Executive Director, and to report the recommendations to the Commission,

Noting with satisfaction the good cooperation between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Centre and the important role played by the Committee, with the assistance of the Centre, in the preparation of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting also that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) is a suitable forum for communication between the Executive Director of the Centre and Governments,

Recognizing the growing importance of the Committee's role and its potential in assisting the Executive Director in reviewing the implementation of the programme of the Centre,

Recognizing also a potential role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Recognizing further the overriding call for a greater transparency of the Centre's activities,

1. Decides that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will meet regularly, at least four times a year, to assess, in close cooperation with the Executive Director, the implementation of the decisions of the Commission on Human Settlements and also any other human settlements problems which the Committee decides to put on the agenda;

2. Recommends that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) request the Executive Director in advance of its meetings, to provide information on all matters which were included in the agenda;

3. Recommends also that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) make recommendations on the matters discussed at the Committee's meetings to the Executive Director of the Centre for her/his consideration and for further reporting to the Committee and to the Commission;

4. Invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to examine the feasibility of holding the meetings with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the same day as the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme, without incurring additional costs to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for simultaneous interpretation services.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/11. Assistance to victims of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting the positive trend in South Africa towards democratization of the political system,

Recalling, inter alia, General Assembly resolution 47/116 A of 18 December 1992 on international efforts towards the total eradication of apartheid and support for the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa, in which the Assembly appealed to the international community for assistance to South Africa in its efforts to tackle housing problems, and Assembly resolution 36/80 of 9 December 1981,

Further recalling its resolutions 5/19 of 7 May 1982, 6/11 of 5 May 1983, 7/3 of 9 May 1984, 8/18 of 18 May 1985, 9/7 of 16 May 1986, 10/5 of 16 April 1987, 11/11 of 12 April 1988, 12/13 of 2 May 1989 and 13/8 of 8 May 1991,

Aware of the deplorable living conditions of the majority population of South Africa,

Also aware of the deliberations taking place between the South African Government and the representatives of the Black majority and interested groups and, hopefully, the positive effect of the deliberations on the housing situation of the majority of the population,

1. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the efforts made thus far in implementing Commission resolution 13/8;

2. Commends States members of the Organization of African Unity and all other supporting members of the international community for their unswerving support of the struggle against apartheid;

3. Calls upon the international community to continue providing material and financial assistance to the displaced and homeless victims of apartheid;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue and intensify efforts for the provision of increased technical training and other forms of assistance to victims of apartheid, pursuant to Commission resolutions 12/13 and 13/8.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/12. Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

The Commission on Human Settlements

Takes note with satisfaction of the conclusion reached by the meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat held during the course of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements as annexed.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

Annex

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat,

Recalling its meetings around the world, and particularly the Tokyo Declaration of 1990 on Human Settlements and Development 1/ and the Vancouver Declaration of 1992 on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development, m/

Based upon the results of the discussions held at its meeting during the fourteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements,

1. Expresses its support for the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

2. Pledges its active support for the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to extend its support for the conference of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat to be held in Mexico in 1994 to the extent that contributions are made available for that purpose.

14/13. Shelter Sector Performance Indicators

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recalling also that previous resolutions of the Commission on Human Settlements clearly reaffirm the importance of the Global Strategy, and the necessity for greater efforts on the part of Governments to establish enabling frameworks which can facilitate the efficient and equitable production of adequate housing for all,

Recalling further its resolution 12/1 of 3 May 1989, in which the Commission requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare guidelines for cost-effective national

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1/ HS/C/13/INF.3, annex I.

m/ HS/C/14/INF.4, annex I.

monitoring of the progress towards realizing the goals of the Global Strategy and in which it recommended that all Governments gradually set in place the monitoring system proposed,

Recognizing the importance of the ability to quantify in an objective manner national progress relative to goals of the Global Strategy, and the need to provide accurate and timely information for efficient functioning of domestic housing markets as well as for effective allocation of the international assistance,

Recalling also its resolution 13/9 of 8 May 1991, in which the Commission requested the Executive Director to complete the design of and test the internationally comparable set of appropriate key quantitative and policy-sensitive indicators under development by the Centre and the World Bank,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director entitled "Shelter Sector Performance Indicators", n/

1. Commends the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the World Bank for their efforts in developing an internationally comparable set of appropriate, key, quantitative and policy-sensitive indicators designed to assist Governments in regular, cost-effective monitoring of progress towards a well-functioning shelter sector in accordance with the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

2. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director entitled "Shelter Sector Performance Indicators", including its plan for nation-wide coverage and globalization of the programme;

3. Decides to urge Governments to intensify their efforts towards regular monitoring of the performance of the housing sector using the key policy-sensitive indicators, i.e., on quality, availability and affordability involving as far as possible all governmental, private-sector and other non-governmental actors in the shelter sector, in order to achieve the objectives of the Global Strategy, paying special attention to the need to build national capacities for systematic measuring of the performance of the housing sector and carrying out policy analysis leading to effective policy-making and institutional reform in the housing sector;

4. Recommends that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in conjunction with the World Bank and other donors, accelerate the implementation of the plan for the globalization phase of the programme by providing adequate professional, administrative and financial resources;

5. Recommends also that requesting Governments be provided technical and financial assistance by the international community in the regular monitoring of the housing sector;

6. Recommends further that Governments prepare reports on progress towards meeting the objectives of the Global Strategy based on the findings of the key policy-sensitive indicators for presentation during future sessions of the Commission;

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n/ HS/C/14/3/Add.1.

7. Recommends further that findings based on the monitoring of the housing sector using the indicators should provide the basis for country reports on the status of human settlements prepared by Governments in the course of the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

8. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to initiate action to introduce housing indicators into global reports, specifically the Global Report on Human Settlements, the World Development Report and any other reports published on a regular basis, to focus attention on the importance of the housing sector as such and its importance for national economies;

9. Requests the Executive Director to continue the work related to the Shelter Sector Performance Indicators programme with a view to incorporating a gender dimension into the system of indicators and developing the system in accordance with the accumulating experience;

10. Also requests the Executive Director to coordinate the activities of the Shelter Sector Performance Indicators programme with relevant programmes such as indicators of the participation of women, urban environment indicators and the city database;

11. Further requests the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to initiate research aimed at exploring the reasons for differences in housing outcomes between countries and within countries, based on the findings of the global application of the Performance Indicators;

12. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session on the implementation of the recommendations of the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/14. Urban areas, environment and energy - Putting Agenda 21 into action

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and the importance of its full implementation,

Mindful of the need for a substantial and comprehensive implementation of the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and in particular those related to the proper management of human settlements as a prerequisite for the attainment of the overall goal of sustainable development, the centre-piece of which must be the human being and his living environment,

Welcoming the decision by the General Assembly to convene in 1996 the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Stressing the need to address human settlements-related issues from the household perspective in order to encourage and enable the full participation and contribution of the local and regional levels, in cooperation with

non-governmental and community-based organizations in achieving a globally sustainable human environment,

Welcoming the initiative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to convene the Expert Group Meeting on Urban Areas, Environment and Energy - Putting Agenda 21 into Action, held at Lund, Sweden, in March 1993,

Taking note with appreciation of the extensive report and recommendations produced by the experts at that meeting, and of the efforts of the secretariat and the organizing committee in making the report available to the Commission at the current session,

Recognizing the relevance of the recommendations contained in the report for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, the human settlements components of Agenda 21 and the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to integrate the findings and conclusions from the Expert Group Meeting on Urban Areas, Environment and Energy - Putting Agenda 21 into Action into the work programme;

2. Requests the Executive Director to give wide and accessible dissemination of the report and the recommendations from the Expert Group Meeting to interested national and international agencies and organizations and, in particular, other bodies within the United Nations system, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the regional commissions, as well as other concerned national and multilateral bodies and agencies;

3. Invites the Executive Director, in cooperation with donor countries and agencies, to arrange similar meetings of experts on selected human settlements-related issues, as a practical means of pursuing the work programme of the Centre, including its substantial contribution to the implementation of relevant parts of Agenda 21 and the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

4. Invites the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to make full use of the report and the relevant recommendations and findings of the Expert Group Meeting in its preparatory work for that Conference;

5. Requests the Executive Director to make the report of the Expert Group Meeting and the present resolution available to the Preparatory Committee.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/15. Improvement of municipal management

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its decision 13/24 of 7 May 1991 requesting the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare, among others, a theme paper on improvement of municipal management for the consideration of the Commission at its fourteenth session,

Taking note of the theme paper on improvement of municipal management, o/

Recognizing the growing trend towards "a world of cities" and the need for evolving efficient management of cities to improve the living and working conditions and environments for the whole population, particularly the economically and socially weaker elements,

Recognizing the important role played by cities in the social, economic and political modernization and development process and in the improvement of the quality of life of their own residents,

Recognizing also that cities are the engines of growth, and the centres of production, exchange and consumption,

Recognizing further the potential of cities as a resource pool in terms of both human resources and concentration of activities and organizational location,

Aware that the potentially limited resources available for the provision of basic infrastructure and services may require lower and more flexible standards,

Recognizing also the need to adopt approaches which are appropriate for the different cultural and economic realities of the developing countries while reflecting the fundamental features of good management, namely, efficiency, transparency, accountability and participation,

1. Adopts the broader concept of municipal management, based on enabling principles as already outlined in the New Agenda for Human Settlements p/ and in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, as well as in Agenda 21 e/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular chapter 28, all of which are based on the full participation of all actors in the human settlements development and management process, and envisages the role of municipal institutions within this broader concept;

2. Recommends that in local revenue generation and administration, the criteria of efficiency, equity and fairness should be guiding principles and that there should be clear recognition of the authority of municipal governments to develop and manage these resources;

3. Urges municipal governments to consult and cooperate with representatives of non-governmental organizations and community organizations and the private sector, in order to identify priority problems, needs and opportunities for involvement and partnership, and to facilitate the full exploitation of the potentials of public-private partnership, taking into account the need to decentralize municipal management to the neighbourhood level;

4. Urges also municipal governments to adopt a broad-based strategic approach to the formulation of municipal management policies with due regard to the need for a differentiated approach in relation to the size of settlements and the rural hinterland, and the need to facilitate the participation of the community and various groups, in particular women, in the formulation of

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o/ HS/C/14/6 and Corr.1.

p/ HS/C/10/2.

strategies and to take necessary steps to ensure the fullest utilization of available human, financial and institutional resources;

5. Invites Governments to adopt explicit policies to strengthen the capacity of local government/municipalities and empower them to discharge their management functions and to provide local public services through effective decentralization of resources and responsibilities, legislative support and necessary reform facilitating improved coordination between government agencies and municipalities;

6. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue research in order to develop practical guidelines for the improvement of the living environment in different settlement types, and technical assistance therefor, and on strategies for the improvement of municipal management, and report on these activities to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session.

7th plenary meeting
5 May 1993

14/16. Building materials for housing

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recalling also its resolution 9/10 of 16 May 1986 and its decision 13/24 of 7 May 1991,

Aware that the supply of affordable building materials is one of the principal difficulties faced by large sections of populations in developing countries in providing adequate housing for themselves,

Deeply concerned that the gap between the demand for building materials and the domestic capacity for production has widened in recent years in many developing countries with increased import dependence and often drastic rises in prices of essential building materials,

Noting that several supply-side constraints such as the diminishing supply of raw materials, rising energy costs, the low productivity of the industry, and distribution and marketing problems are exerting persistent inflationary pressure on the building-materials sector,

Further noting that the ever-increasing demand for conventional building materials is imposing severe stress on the natural-resources base, especially on non-renewable resources, and on the environment,

Recognizing that increasing the supply of shelter, reducing production costs and, at the same time, minimizing environmental pollution, present a major challenge to the building-materials industry,

Recognizing further that meeting this challenge requires the use of innovative, energy-efficient and low-polluting technologies, low-energy materials, recycling and reuse of wastes and the involvement of building-industry research, development and promotion organizations, local governments and end-users, in both the formal and informal sectors, in the

development, production, distribution and use of environmentally sound building designs, materials, construction techniques and use of building materials,

1. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the report on building materials for housing; g/

2. Recommends that Governments should consider formulating and implementing national strategies for the sustainable supply of affordable building materials to facilitate adequate shelter for all within the foreseeable future;

3. Emphasizes that such strategies should be based on the "enabling concept" of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, adopting appropriate, cost-effective technologies that can support housing programmes which are predominantly small in scale, locally determined and locally managed;

4. Urges Governments to recognize and facilitate the role of non-governmental and community-based organizations, households and women's groups in the design, promotion, production and implementation of environmentally-sound building materials as well as buildings and household energy technologies;

5. Calls upon Governments to create an enabling environment leading to greater decentralization, increased investment and improved technological capacity, greater innovation and competition and improved organization of the sector, with particular attention to removing obstacles to the full participation of household-based, small-, medium- and large-scale enterprises;

6. Recommends that Governments and other concerned agencies support the development, transfer and diffusion of appropriate technologies that make efficient use of natural resources, and agricultural and industrial wastes, that improve energy efficiency and that reduce environmental pollution;

7. Recommends also that Governments and industrial development agencies urgently provide adequate industrial extension services to the small-scale producers of building materials;

8. Recommends also that Governments improve the availability of venture capital, equity and term-loan support where applicable through commercial banks and other financial institutions for technological upgrading of the building-materials industry, and also the formal and informal sectors;

9. Recommends further that Governments encourage the development of industrial cooperatives of building-materials producers operating in the small-scale and informal sectors;

10. Recommends further that Governments support expeditious formulation and wide-scale adoption of standards, specifications and building codes and regulations, for greater utilization of cost-effective indigenous building materials, designs and construction techniques that are environmentally sound and reduce health hazards in the construction of houses and related infrastructure, and that enhance the indoor environment in housing projects;

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g/ HS/C/14/7.

11. Recommends further that Governments promote the dissemination of information among prospective users, particularly low-income groups, on available cost-effective and environmentally-sound building materials, through information campaigns, data-sheet systems, expositions and demonstration projects;

12. Calls upon Governments and the international community, through South-South and North-South cooperation, to support the transfer of appropriate and environmentally-sound technologies and related equipment and also to enhance capabilities for effective technology transfer;

13. Also calls upon Governments and the international community to support building domestic capacity in developing countries for research and development, standardization training and awareness creation, inter alia, through twinning arrangements and staff exchange between institutions in industrialized and developing countries, support collaboration among private construction companies and through sharing of expertise, and research, development and engineering facilities, among developing countries;

14. Also calls upon Governments and donors to develop and organize comprehensive training programmes to support ecologically friendly and low-cost informal-sector building schemes and to promote building and household energy programmes;

15. Appeals to funding agencies to increase their development assistance in upgrading the building-materials industry and increasing the technology base in developing countries;

16. Recommends that relevant international, national and local organizations strengthen efforts to enhance the recycling and reuse of building materials;

17. Recommends also that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) strengthen, in coordination with relevant United Nations organizations and appropriate intergovernmental organizations, the efforts to enhance domestic capacity for building-materials production;

18. Requests the Executive Director to explore the possibility, in cooperation with other relevant agencies, of drafting an informative document on: (a) such building materials in the housing sector that are harmful or potentially harmful to people's health and the environment; and (b) of possible acceptable alternative building materials that could substitute for such materials, and to present that document to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session;

19. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue to include in its work programme the preparation of technical publications and information material and the organization of demonstration projects and training programmes to facilitate capacity-building in developing countries for environmentally sound production of cost-effective and durable building materials;

20. Recommends that Governments set up appropriate technology transfer mechanisms at the national, provincial and local grass-root levels, such as

building centres, to enable and enhance the application of technology options and to ensure the incorporation of building technologies in the educational curricula of professional institutes.

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14/17. Governmental-non-governmental cooperation in the field of human settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 13/16 of 8 May 1991, in which the Commission requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to examine the possibilities for convening a meeting of governmental, non-governmental and community-based organizations' representatives at which all aspects, possibilities and modalities for increased international governmental/non-governmental cooperation in the field of human settlements were to be discussed,

Recalling also its resolution 10/15 of 16 April 1987 which, inter alia, called for the creation of national shelter coalitions through which Governments might help to mobilize non-governmental resources in partnerships devoted to the provision, expansion and improvement of shelter for all, with special attention to the problems confronting low-income families,

Recalling also chapter 27 of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which describes non-governmental organizations as social partners, r/

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 by which the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and stated that "enabling policies, whereby the full potential and resources of all governmental and non-governmental actors in the field of human settlements are utilized, must be at the heart of national and international efforts",

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Meeting on Governmental-Non-governmental Cooperation in the Field of Human Settlements, s/

1. Takes note of and endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Meeting on Governmental-Non-governmental Cooperation in the Field of Human Settlements; t/

2. Commends Member States that have established successful mechanisms for cooperation with non-governmental and community-based organizations in the field of human settlements, and encourages those which have not done so to consider the establishment of such a mechanism;

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r/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II, para. 27.6.

s/ HS/C/14/2/Add.4.

t/ Ibid., annex.

3. Commends the positive role played by non-governmental organizations in the field of human settlements and in the work of the Commission on Human Settlements;

4. Urges Member States to involve, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations fully in public-awareness creation, implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and the relevant parts of Agenda 21 e/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular, associations of women's organizations, and the scientific and academic community in this effort;

5. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to hold regular consultations with representatives of non-governmental and community-based organizations, with special awareness of gender representation;

6. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to facilitate the involvement of non-governmental and community-based organizations in the Conference and its preparatory process;

7. Also requests the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to strengthen the research, training and dissemination capacity of non-governmental organizations;

8. Invites Governments to review the levels of support given to non-governmental organizations in order to augment their role as partners in the field of human settlements.

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14/18. Coordination matters

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolutions 10/7 of 16 May 1987, 12/19, of 2 May 1989 and 13/15 of 8 May 1991 on coordination and cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolution 10/3 of 16 April 1987 on cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 34/114 of 14 December 1979 on cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on coordination and cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, u/ with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations, v/ and the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme, w/

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue and intensify the significant efforts of the Centre in coordinating the activities of the organizations within the United Nations system, with particular reference to coordination activities relating to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, as well as the human settlements-related parts of Agenda 21; e/

2. Welcomes the active participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, thus contributing to, inter alia, the formulation of several action programmes of Agenda 21 and ensuring the Conference's recognition of "human settlements" as one of the major issues among cross-sectoral topics, which require special attention;

3. Welcomes also the continued cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme in the four subject areas as previously established by the Commission and within the system-wide effort of the United Nations;

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u/ HS/C/14/12.

v/ HS/C/14/13.

w/ HS/C/14/11.

4. Notes with satisfaction the continued and fruitful cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and intergovernmental organizations - such as the Caribbean Community, the League of Arab States, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States - as well as the Centre's cooperative activities with relevant financial institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank;

5. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to identify further areas of expansion of collaboration as would emerge from the implementation of the recommendations contained in the relevant parts of Agenda 21, and report to the Commission at its fifteenth session;

6. Also requests the Executive Director to continue to recognize the importance of close cooperation, at the global and regional levels, between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and universities, research and scientific institutes and, in particular, relevant non-governmental organizations and voluntary groups;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to continue to pursue efforts for coordination with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, and with intergovernmental organizations and relevant financial institutions outside the United Nations system for more effective implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and several relevant action programmes under Agenda 21, and the activities relating to the organization of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and to report the results of such coordination to the Commission at its fifteenth session.

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14/19. Role and place of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the United Nations system

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on international cooperation in the field of human settlements which provided, inter alia, for the establishment of the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to serve as the institutional focus for human settlements action within the United Nations system,

Recalling, in particular, section III of General Assembly resolution 32/162, which provides for the appointment of an Executive Director for the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat) and sets forth the responsibilities of the Centre under the leadership of its Executive Director,

Considering that the Centre has made a substantial contribution to the United Nations activities in the field of human settlements, inter alia, as highlighted in Commission on Human Settlements resolution 10/20 of 16 April 1987,

Emphasizing that the Centre has an important and continuing role to play in the execution of important actions within the United Nations system, such as, inter alia, the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and in mobilizing international support for ensuring shelter for all,

Recognizing the role of the Centre in implementing the human settlements aspects of Agenda 21, e/ in international coordination of physical strategies and development projects, and in creating an efficient basis for increased international cooperation,

Believing that in the restructuring of the United Nations system the Centre should be maintained as the global focal point for human settlements, and that its institutional capabilities should be substantially strengthened and developed towards a more effective presence at the regional and national levels,

Noting the draft resolution adopted by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly at its 66th meeting on 21 April 1993 x/ by which the Assembly would decide to defer action on the proposal of the Secretary-General to abolish the post of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and request him to reconsider his proposal and to report in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 on future Secretariat support arrangements for the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the question of separate senior management arrangements for the Centre, taking into account the views and recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council and the views expressed by Member States;

Taking into account the views expressed on this issue by Member States at the fourteenth session of the Commission,

1. Confirms the importance of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as a focal point for human settlements action and the coordination of activities within the United Nations system, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 32/162;

2. Confirms also the responsibilities of the Centre as laid down in resolution 32/162 and subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly;

3. Further confirms the need for the Centre to strengthen its activities also at the regional level;

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x/ A/C.5/47/L.36. Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly at its 102nd plenary meeting, on 6 May 1993, as resolution 47/212 B.

4. Recommends that the Centre should continue to play an active role in the implementation of all relevant provisions of Agenda 21, e/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; d/

5. Recommends also that the Centre should substantially increase, subject to the availability of resources and through establishing joint substantive programmes with the regional commissions, its activities in assisting countries and regions in the development of their policies and strategies to solve human settlements problems and to promote international cooperation in the preparation and execution of sound spatial development strategies;

6. Expresses its firm conviction that the current and projected state of human settlements development necessitates and justifies the continued existence of a separate and distinct United Nations entity at the Secretariat level to pursue work, for the benefit of Member States, in this critical area of economic and social development;

7. Welcomes section III of General Assembly resolution 32/162, which provides for the appointment of an Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and strongly recommends that the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) be kept under distinct senior management in accordance with the specific nature and activities of the two bodies;

8. Notes with appreciation the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, as contained in the above-mentioned draft resolution y/ regarding the request to the Secretary General to present, in accordance with the principles and guidelines contained in resolution 46/232 of 2 March 1992, adequate proposals in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 to reflect the status of Nairobi;

9. Requests the Executive Director of the Centre to submit to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session a report on "New objectives, role and place of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the United Nations system" for further submission, with its recommendation, including the question of separate senior management arrangements for the Centre, to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), through its Preparatory Committee;

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y/ A/C.5/47/L.36, operative para. 12.

10. Further requests the Executive Director to bring the present resolution to the notice of the Secretary-General and of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

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14/20. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the recommendations adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in 1976 at Vancouver, Canada, and General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and General Assembly resolutions 46/164 of 19 December 1991 and 47/180 of 22 December 1992 on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Noting with appreciation the decision taken by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at its organizational session, which stresses the active role that the Commission on Human Settlements can play in supporting the work of the Preparatory Committee,

Recalling that the Preparatory Committee invited the Commission to provide, at its fourteenth session, recommendations on substantive issues for the Conference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/180 and taking into account discussions on those issues in the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee,

Recalling also that the Preparatory Committee invited the Commission to draft guidelines that will enable States to take a harmonized approach in their preparations and reporting,

Recognizing that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) is particularly prepared to promote the tasks and purposes of the Conference,

Noting with satisfaction that research and information activities, specifically designed to assist the preparatory process of the Conference, have already been included in the work programme of the Centre for the biennium 1994-1995,

Emphasizing the ultimate goal of the Conference, which is to improve the living environment of all people on a sustainable basis, with special attention to the needs and contributions of women and vulnerable social groups,

Considering that the Conference will be a central event in the United Nations activities aimed at this goal and that it will thereby further the work carried out and results achieved within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, where vital interdependencies were identified between human settlements development and the state of the natural environment,

Bearing in mind that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 is the United Nations programme aimed at facilitating adequate shelter for all through an enabling approach and that the international community has renewed its commitment to the Strategy in Agenda 21, y/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Deeply concerned at urban and rural poverty, which brings about misery and human suffering to wide segments of population, in particular women and children, and which represents loss of valuable human resources and is a major underlying reason for the deterioration of the built and natural environment,

Convinced that access to safe and healthy shelter and basic services is essential to a person's physical, psychological, social and economic well-being and that shelter development through an enabling approach can be an important contribution to the national economy,

Cognizant of urban transition as an irreversible demographic, economic and societal process which can be a major instrument for securing balanced economic and spatial development and relieve the severe pressure on scarce agricultural land,

Fully aware of the alarming state of the urban environment in many cities, towns and regions as evidenced by congestion, pollution, pervasive poverty and overall degradation,

Recognizing that effective management of the rural-urban transition and the development of individual settlements is essential in the efforts to minimize the hazards and maximize the benefits of urbanization and ensure a safe and sound living environment,

Also recognizing that effective management of metropolitan cities, where large proportions of urban populations in many countries reside and which contribute substantially to economic, technological, cultural and social development, require special and participative arrangements because of the scale of problems and resources needed, and the complexity of politico-administrative situations,

Stressing the need to study those issues in a programme context in which also targets, timetables and monitoring and evaluation arrangements for action are specified and proposals for necessary institutional reorganizations and mobilization of resources are included,

Reiterating its desire and keen interest to play an active role in the preparations for the Conference,

1. Welcomes the report of the Executive Director entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): Substantive issues and draft guidelines for preparations and reporting at the country level", z/ which

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z/ HS/C/14/14/Add.1.

provides a most useful basis for preparing the programme and procedures of the Conference;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to forward the above report, as revised by the Commission and annexed to the present resolution, to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

3. Requests the Executive Director to test the feasibility of the guidelines for national and thematic global reports contained in the appendix to the attached annex through the establishment, inter alia, of ad hoc working groups;

4. Recommends that the programme of the Conference focus on main challenges and problems of the future in the field of human settlements and sustainable development, on implementation of programmes resulting from Agenda 21, e/ on international coordination of physical strategies and development projects, and on strengthening the basis for international cooperation in the human settlements field;

5. Decides to discuss, at its fifteenth session, the mid-term review of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 to be prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the Conference, as requested by the General Assembly, and recommends that this review be supplemented with the results of the evaluation of the Global Strategy to be carried out by the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session;

6. Recommends also that the preparatory work at both national and international levels be based as widely as possible, integrating non-governmental organizations, local governments, communities and the private sector;

7. Encourages and supports the organization of a forum on the conference themes by non-governmental organizations, private and public associations and other relevant groups;

8. Calls upon Governments to establish, as soon as possible, national focal points to coordinate national activities in preparation for the Conference and act as a liaison point with the Secretary-General of the Conference, and suggests that appropriate focal points be such as the focal points established for the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

9. Requests the Executive Director to draw up guidelines for national focal points, including suggested action to:

(a) Prepare national reports for the Conference, as described in the present resolution;

(b) Involve, inter alia, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, local government agencies and special interest agencies;

(c) Provide information at the national level regarding global human settlements issues and the specific goals of the Conference;

10. Recommends further that, in order to support the work of the ad hoc secretariat for the Conference, which is organizationally part of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), all relevant work carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development and other United Nations bodies be utilized as much as possible;

11. Requests all States Members and observers of the United Nations to participate actively in the preparatory process of the Conference;

12. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to appoint as a matter of urgency a Secretary-General of the Conference, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/180;

13. Requests the Executive Director to support, within available resources, the preparatory process at the country and regional level in response to requests from Governments, with due consideration to regional coordination mechanisms;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifteenth session an item entitled "Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)", and confirms its readiness to discuss, inter alia, any subjects which may be referred to it by the Preparatory Committee;

15. Requests the Executive Director to bring the present resolution and its annex and appendix to the notice of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

16. Recommends that Governments initiate their national preparatory work for the Conference in line with the outlined proposals and subject to the final decision of the Preparatory Committee.

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ANNEX

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): Substantive issues and draft guidelines for preparations and reporting at the country level

I. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

1. During its first organizational session, held from 3 to 5 March 1993, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decided to invite the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session "to provide recommendations to the Preparatory Committee ... on substantive issues in an integrated manner for the Conference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/180 and taking into account discussions on those issues in the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee", and

"to draft guidelines for consideration and adoption by the Preparatory Committee at its first session to enable States to take a harmonized approach in their preparations and reporting". aa/

2. The present report has been prepared to provide the Commission with a basis for its deliberations on these two topics. It is composed of an introduction and two sections. The introduction aims at highlighting the importance of the Conference and suggesting guiding principles that could enhance the positive impact of the Conference's preparatory process for individual countries and for the global community. After an introduction, section I offers specific recommendations on the central themes under which the substantive issues could be regrouped. Section II suggests a set of criteria for the organization and support of country-based preparatory activities.

3. This document is submitted, as revised, to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference as an annex to Commission resolution 14/20.

II. INTRODUCTION

4. "Sustainable development means improving the quality of life for all. It cannot be achieved in a world where more than one billion people live in absolute poverty. It is unacceptable, and even inhuman, to talk about long-term environmental sustainability without considering the short-term problems of mere survival for such a large portion of humanity." This statement, endorsed by the Commission in April 1991, together with the report entitled People, Settlements, Environment and Development, set the tone for the human settlements contributions to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. That Conference recognized the importance and contribution of human settlements to environment and development, and its global plan of action, Agenda 21, is now a blueprint for policy and action for the whole United Nations system and for the Governments it serves.

5. The overall human settlement objective stated in Agenda 21 is

"to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people, in particular the urban and rural poor. Such improvement should be based on technical cooperation activities, partnerships among the public, private and community sectors and participation in the decision-making process by community groups and special interest groups such as women, indigenous people, the elderly and the disabled. These approaches should form the core principles of national settlement strategies .... Furthermore, countries should make appropriate provision to monitor the impact of their strategies on marginalized and disenfranchised groups, with particular reference to the needs of women." bb/

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aa/ See A/48/37, para. 22.

bb/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II, para. 7.4.

A. Why a United Nations Conference on Human Settlements?

6. The twentieth century has witnessed an exponential rise in the creation of wealth through the introduction of an unprecedented array of new technologies and production processes. Breakthroughs in science and medicine have resulted in overall improvements in health and life expectancy. This century has also seen wide-ranging experiments with social, economic and political structures to achieve better living conditions for people. At the same time, the present decade will witness the highest population increase of any 10-year period in the history of our planet, past and future.

7. In this momentous transition between the twentieth and the twenty-first century, human settlements - the places where we all live now and which, however transformed, will be the home of generations to come - command the attention of the whole world. Phenomena like the global rural-urban transition, the emergence of numbers of giant cities unrecorded in the history of civilization, the growing numbers of poor women, men and children living in appalling environmental conditions, the seemingly intractable problems of providing decent housing, water, sanitation and transport to all human beings on this planet, the growing social problems posed by homelessness, unemployment and uncertainty have ceased being a distinctive trait of the developing world alone, and are no longer the sole concern of specialized government agencies and international institutions: they now command the attention of national and international media, of institutions of learning and research, of the business community and, even more importantly, that of women and men of good will all over the world.

8. The convening of a habitat conference comes at a pivotal point in history for harnessing scientific, technological and organizational tools for improving the living environment of all people. It is also a unique and welcome challenge for the people working with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The Conference offers a historical opportunity to document, with a degree of penetration never attempted before, the nature, extent and depth of the settlements problems humanity is now facing in a rapidly urbanizing world; to understand what has gone wrong; to document and analyse the many good things that have happened; to identify opportunity; and to build, on the basis of this new knowledge, a vision of a better world to come that we can all build together, with full respect for cultural identity.

9. The present document is an initial contribution to meeting this challenge. It is based on the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of professionals who, because of their association with United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), have been given the opportunity of working in all quarters of the planet and in all areas of human settlements development - policy, planning, management, infrastructure, housing, water, sanitation, energy, transport, human resource development and gender issues. It is also a message and a call for cooperation to the world and to the Habitat community: to all those who, in their different capacities, are striving to improve our living environment and share the hope for a better world for the Earth's children of today and of tomorrow.

10. The opportunity for this contribution has been given by the invitation made to the Commission on Human Settlements to contribute to the preparatory work of the Conference by formulating substantive topics for the Conference's future plan of action and draft guidelines for country-level preparations. It is our

earnest hope that this brief document will constitute a solid basis for the work of the Commission.

B. Need for a new agenda

11. These emerging issues emphasize the urgency for a fresh human settlements agenda, the definition of which is based on three compelling objectives:

(a) To form a positive vision of the urbanized world of the future in order to inspire forward-looking principles and actions;

(b) To manage human settlements of all sizes better, and to arrest the social and physical deterioration of the human environment;

(c) To place human settlements within the macroeconomic and social context in order to understand better the pivotal role investments in human settlements can play in bringing about equitable social development, economic growth and a better quality of life.

12. The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) - and the process leading up to it - can focus the attention of the world on:

(a) Recognizing human settlements development as a strategic, cross-cutting dimension of the development process;

(b) Helping to reorient governmental, donor and lender interventions in an urbanizing world;

(c) Redefining the role of UNCHS (Habitat) and strengthening its capacity to respond effectively to global, national and local human settlements challenges in the next two decades;

(d) Recommending appropriate United Nations organizational arrangements to implement and monitor the global plan of action.

C. Guiding principles for the preparatory process

13. First, we must define the Habitat II goal in terms that are comprehensible to everybody and that can mobilize the world's commitment, energy and imagination. Habitat II cannot be a celebratory event. There is little reason to celebrate the fact that more people live in poverty than was the case 20 years ago; that more people - women, men and children - are living today in unhealthy and precarious housing conditions than ever before in the history of humanity; that the settlements of the world, both developed and developing, find it increasingly difficult to ensure acceptable social, economic and, in particular, environmental conditions to the totality of their citizens. All of these problems are becoming more acute in urban areas, and increasingly so in rapidly growing large agglomerations. Cities, poverty and the environment are realities that everybody understands: they are respectively issues, problems and values that we all share and identify with.

14. Secondly, we must reach out to our constituencies. Habitat II, like other United Nations conferences, is called by Governments for Governments. But Governments, and this is an emerging reality world wide, are ultimately accountable to citizens. And the scope and range of action of central governments is becoming much more limited in terms of what they can do themselves. They can, however, become a powerful force and amplify the impact of their legislative, regulatory and promotional action if they succeed in mobilizing local action; in acting strategically rather than controlling indiscriminately; in developing the humility to understand, and the vision to act according to a humane and, thus, intelligent perception of the problems at hand. If we can use the Habitat II opportunity for reaching out to all our constituencies at the global, national and local levels, and thus capture the win-win options at hand, we shall set in motion processes the beneficial effects of which will go far beyond the 1996 Conference itself.

15. Thirdly, and finally, we must develop a truly global perception of critical human settlements issues and opportunities. For too long we have worked on the assumption that the North has everything to teach, and the South everything to learn. We must start thinking in terms of a two-way flow. There is a lot that the North can share with the South in terms of national and local experiences in human settlements planning, development and management; in transparent and participatory approaches to decision-making and local development. But there are many lessons that everybody can learn from the South. Thus, one of the challenges for the preparatory process is also to document innovative and successful experiences and to use the process itself to set up a global capacity for identifying, documenting and exchanging experiences on a continuous basis, paying particular attention to local and community-level action. This, too, will help us to develop a momentum which will go well beyond the Conference itself.

III. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

16. The objectives of the Conference as spelled out in General Assembly resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 include, inter alia, the adoption of "a general statement of principles and commitments" and a "global plan of action capable of guiding national and international efforts through the first two decades of the next century". The substantive part of such a plan of action should include. guidelines for national settlement policies and strategies to eradicate urban and rural poverty and promote sustainable economic development; programmes and subprogrammes to implement relevant elements of Agenda 21 in order to promote environmentally sustainable human settlements; proposals for the mobilization of human, financial and technical resources, internationally and nationally, from the private and public sector, to implement Agenda 21 programmes; and measures to strengthen national, metropolitan and municipal institutions and machinery in order to enhance human settlements development.

17. Discussions at the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) further elaborated a set of specific issues. Some of these represent a confirmation of concerns already expressed in General Assembly resolution 47/180, or refinements of previously stated issues, while others are new. These were summarized by the Chairman as follows:

(a) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and human settlements-related parts of Agenda 21, including technology issues;

(b) Eradication of poverty - urban and rural poverty issues and human settlements;

(c) A comprehensive plan of action based on capacity-building and the enabling approach;

(d) Housing policies and finance - regulatory regimes for housing, building and land-use management and the role of the private sector;

(e) Promoting investment as a contribution to economic growth, employment and improvement of the quality of life;

(f) Economic and spatial policies and development strategies for rural and urban settlements, their sustainable interaction and linkages and interdependence;

(g) The contribution of cities to global sustainable development.

A. Organizing principles

18. In light of the decisions of the General Assembly and the views put forward by the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee, it is clear that national governments are looking to the Habitat II Conference to concern themselves with settlements and urban policies which will be innovative and enabling, and capable of generating sustainable economic growth, alleviating poverty and enhancing the urban environment. Governments are also expecting that the Conference will address: (a) the integration and participation of the urban and rural poor in the political, social and economic life of human settlements; and (b) capacity-building at the community, local and national levels to enhance the efficient management of human settlements and the effective implementation of national human settlements development policies. Finally, it is clear from the issues elaborated by the General Assembly and the Preparatory Committee that the issue of resources - human, financial and technological - will have to be an a priori concern at the Habitat II Conference, especially given the need to use these limited resources more efficiently.

B. Proposed substantive themes

19. From this background, two central themes emerge as crucial for Habitat II in assisting national communities to focus on the issues of urbanization, human settlements and shelter:

(a) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world;

(b) Adequate Shelter for All.

20. Suggestions for the preparation of national and global thematic reports on the above themes are contained in the appendix to the present text.

IV. PREPARATORY PROCESS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

A. How will the process benefit countries?

21. The preparatory process is conceived as a capacity-building exercise by providing an opportunity for national communities to review policies and strategies and avail themselves of ad hoc instruments provided by the secretariat of the Habitat II Conference and partner United Nations bodies and agencies both to improve settlements management and to monitor performance on a sustained basis and beyond the Conference itself. The preparatory process can pave the way for:

(a) The adoption of more effective sectoral and inter-sectoral development policies and strategies through the linking of human settlements management with the socio-economic agenda;

(b) Broader participation and commitment of actors at all levels to implement those policies and strategies, leading to greater mobilization of local resources;

(c) Targeted investments leading to more sustainable mechanisms for implementation at the community, local and national levels.

22. Some of the specific outcomes of the process could include:

(a) A national commitment to implement country-wide action plans;

(b) Participatory processes for identifying issues and formulating policy options in human settlements development;

(c) Sets of indicators to enable countries to assess human settlements conditions, devise appropriate policies and strategies and measure their impact on improving human settlements conditions;

(d) Country reports presenting:

(i) A set of strategic options and national action plans to address the following priority areas: a. policies and strategies for an urbanizing world; b. democratization and capacity-building; c. investing in sustainable settlements development;

(ii) Experiences with innovative approaches to settlements management.

B. Guiding principles

23. The guiding principles for the preparatory process are:

(a) Country activities could feed into a global forum of ideas and successful practices on human settlements development and management;

(b) The process leading to the Conference should be firmly rooted at the country level and provide instruments to help countries assess the problems and challenges which they are facing;

(c) Broad-based participation involving from the outset the following key actors:

(i) Grass-roots community leaders;

(ii) Civic leaders, prominent personalities, national and local politicians, mayors, councillors;

(iii) The non-governmental community;

(iv) The business community;

(v) Human settlements professionals from the public and private sector.

Ideally, each of these groups should be part and parcel of the whole preparatory process, both at the country level and in the Preparatory Committee itself.

C. Modalities

24. Setting in motion country preparations and securing national commitment. The following initiatives could greatly facilitate country-level preparatory processes and secure national commitment for follow-up action:

(a) An enabling role at the highest possible government level (the Office of the Presidency or its equivalent is suggested) would provide the impetus and the guidance for initiating preparatory processes. Such a role would guarantee the success of the process, ensure tangible recommendations and suggestions for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of follow-up action at the country level, and pave the way for more effective and responsive external support;

(b) Creation of a national task force/steering committee with the participation of all key actors to coordinate the country preparations.

25. Strengthening participatory processes and organizing country consultations. Representatives from each of the five key groups of actors mentioned above could be identified and requested to mobilize their respective constituencies to contribute to the following steps of the preparatory process:

(a) Formulate, from their own perspective, preliminary assessments of settlements-development issues as a base for local and national consultations;

(b) The various actors could organize local or country-wide consultations to reach a consensus on priority issues and options for future actions;

(c) The task force/steering committee could facilitate local and national consultations to debate results of this work and raise awareness;

(d) The consultative process could culminate in a country-wide human settlements forum providing the impetus for the implementation of local and national action plans beyond 1996.

26. Applying human settlements indicators. The secretariat of the Habitat II Conference could develop and provide to the task forces/steering committees a set of indicators and other ad-hoc tools and instruments to assist them in assessing human settlements conditions, devising appropriate policies and strategies and measuring their impact in improving human settlements. These indicators and tools could provide a common methodology for country reports to be presented at the Conference and at the same time provide the "harmonized approach" called for in General Assembly resolution 47/180.

27. Preparing country reports.

(a) Country reports could be prepared by the task force/steering committee, incorporating the conclusions of the consultative process, and reflect a common national view of the challenges ahead and the strategic options needed to meet them;

(b) In order to harmonize national reporting and allow the exchange of experiences among countries, the preparation of reports should be structured around the three central themes suggested earlier;

(c) If it is not possible to arrive at a common view of challenges and options for settlements development, it is suggested that complementary presentations on diverging views, options and strategies accompany the country reports;

(d) Various media for presentations on successful experiences could be used as appropriate to the subject-matter and to enhance effectiveness of communications.

D. Support to country preparations

28. One of the tasks of the secretariat of the Habitat II Conference, pending the decisions of the Preparatory Committee, will be to mobilize, facilitate and provide external support for the preparatory process at the country level in response to requests from Governments. The secretariat will, in particular, call upon relevant ongoing programmes and initiatives of the United Nations system to provide funding and technical assistance for country-level activities including the application of human settlements indicators, policy analysis and reviews, the documentation of successful country experiences, regional and subregional workshops, training seminars and workshops, and country consultations.

29. Regional and subregional activities. The secretariat will seek multilateral and bilateral support to organize subregional meetings based on the central themes of the Habitat II Conference to identify issues of common concern, to develop frameworks for organizing and implementing the preparatory process and to exchange ideas and experiences. The secretariat would also cooperate with the regional commissions in seminars and other events organized at the regional level.

30. Advisory services. The secretariat will establish international partnerships to provide follow-up ad hoc advisory services upon the request of Governments to help organize country consultations, initiate and facilitate dialogue between different interest groups and synthesize reporting. The areas in which advisory services will be encouraged include, inter alia:

(a) Facilitation of country consultations, round tables, seminars, workshops, expert panels and so forth;

(b) Use of media;

(c) Organizing community meetings and school assemblies;

(d) Organizing national competitions and exhibitions.

31. Global competition for innovative practice. In addition to the above, the secretariat could organize, in collaboration with sponsors, a global competition on innovative approaches to human settlements management in each of the following areas:

(a) Awareness-building campaigns (all media);

(b) Community/non-governmental organization/neighbourhood initiatives in improving the living/working environment;

(c) Management actions/initiatives undertaken by a local authority to expand coverage of basic infrastructure and/or services;

(d) Public-private partnerships for settlement development/redevelopment;

(e) Applications of information technology in human settlements management.

Submissions for the global competition would be made directly to the organizing committee by any individual, group or organization. The authors/performers/producers of short-listed entries from each region (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Arab States, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America) would be invited to attend the Conference. Accepted formats for entry include school plays and street plays, songs, dances and poetry, illustrated story books, posters, videos, picture books, cartoons, graffiti, and case-studies. Ways and means would have to be found to facilitate the participation of competitors from the least developing countries.

32. Pending the decisions of the Preparatory Committee, UNCHS (Habitat) will forward appropriate preliminary guidelines to Governments and national focal points where established.

V. CONCLUSIONS

33. The considerations and ideas contained in this report have one ultimate objective: to make the 1996 Conference a success.

34. Although criteria for success are difficult to predetermine, it is felt that three essential elements will be needed: focus, realism and participation.

Focus

35. The Conference will not be able to, nor should it, cover all aspects of social and economic development. It will, on the contrary, serve a very important purpose if it can show how sustainable settlements management can give a major contribution to achieving this goal. An attempt has been made in this report to focus on three main areas: policy; democratization and capacity-building; resource mobilization and investment.

Realism

36. It will be essential to avoid building unrealistic expectations on the amount of external resources that the Conference will be capable of mobilizing. Even under the most favourable conditions, external funding is only a fraction of the total amount of resources devoted to human settlements in all countries. Although a larger flow of external funding and assistance to human settlements development is a desirable outcome, sustainability can only be achieved in the medium and long term by using scarce external resources in a strategic and catalytic way. Defining this will be a major challenge for the Conference and another element of its success.

Participation

37. In the past, many United Nations conferences have culminated in a decision-making process for Governments and a separate forum for non-governmental organizations. Although there may still be a need for non-governmental organizations from all over the world to use the Conference as an occasion to meet and discuss common strategies, participatory processes at the country level should lead to one United Nations Conference on Human Settlements: an event capable of coalescing the views and commitments emerging from all countries into one vision, one commitment and one global action programme based on consensus and constructive dedication to a common goal.

APPENDIX

Suggested guidelines and contents of national and thematic global reports for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

A. Focus of the Conference

1. The Conference should establish new practical proposals for improving living conditions in human settlements with specific attention to the needs and contribution of women and socially vulnerable and unserved groups. These proposals will pay particular attention to meeting the basic human need of shelter. To meet this aim and to focus on priority issues, the Conference should concentrate on two major themes for the global plan of action:

(a) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world;

(b) Adequate Shelter for All.

B. Suggested topics for thematic global reports for Habitat II

2. It is suggested that the Conference outcomes should be based on the consideration of two major reports which reflect the two themes. The first of these is provisionally entitled "Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world - prospects and proposals". It is proposed that the major topics for inclusion, with particular reference to Agenda 21, would be:

(a) Review of global demographic trends, urbanization and metropolitan cities;

(b) Urban and rural linkages, spatial planning, strategies for managing urban transitions, with specific reference to metropolitan cities;

(c) Urban economy, relationship to macroeconomic performance, poverty alleviation, employment and income generation;

(d) Urban environment: global implications, strategies for sustainable development, provision of infrastructure and basic services;

(e) Scale of deficiencies and deprivation, vulnerable groups, gender issues, reaching the unserved;

(f) Urban management, capacity-building, mobilizing human, financial and technical resources, decentralization, public-private coalitions.

3. The second major report is provisionally entitled "Adequate Shelter for All". This would examine the implementation of the recommendations from Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I), with particular reference to the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. It is suggested that the major topics for inclusion should be:

(a) Review of the global shelter situation including the gender perspective, and its implications;

(b) Implementation of Habitat I recommendations and review and revision of the Global Strategy;

(c) Availability, affordability, accessibility and quality of housing, land and related services;

(d) Role of shelter in structural adjustment, economic importance of shelter provision;

(e) Disaster prevention, building materials and technology, infrastructure provisions;

(f) Housing indicators, scale of deficiencies and deprivation, vulnerable groups, reaching the unserved;

(g) Institutional arrangements, capacity-building, mobilization of resources, finance, subsidies and regulations.

4. The two reports would each contain recommendations on policies and their implementation, as the basis for the declaration and the global plan of action. They should be built largely upon national reports produced according to the guidelines contained in the report, discussions held during regional and subregional preparatory meetings, and at the fifteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

C. National reports

5. National reports would be one of the essential building blocks for the major Conference reports on the two themes outlined in the previous section. Subject to some degree of variation to suit specific national circumstances, they would be structured in a similar way to the two major thematic reports. They might also include specific case studies. They should contain national housing indicators and a national plan of action with an indication of the principles on which it is based. This would allow the national reports to be more easily synthesized to produce the two thematic Conference reports. The national reports should be prepared in conjunction with as wide a range of national groups and interests as possible.

6. On the basis of the recommendation of the human settlements-related parts of Agenda 21, the following gives examples of the topics to be covered in the national reports.

(a) Sustainable human settlements

(i) Whether urban and rural planning and management guidelines have been adopted and applied in the areas of land management, urban environmental management, infrastructure management and municipal finance and administration;

(ii) What has been done to accelerate efforts to reduce urban and rural poverty through a number of actions, including generating employment for the poor, particularly women, through the provision, improvement and maintenance of urban infrastructure and services and the support of economic activities in the informal sector, such as repairs, recycling, services and small commerce;

(iii) What has been provided in specific assistance to the poorest of the urban poor through, inter alia, the creation of social infrastructure in order to reduce hunger and homelessness, and the provision of adequate community services;

(iv) What has been done to encourage the establishment of indigenous community-based organizations, private voluntary organizations and other forms of non-governmental entities that can contribute to the efforts to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life for low-income families;

(v) What innovative city planning strategies are under consideration to address environmental and social issues by reducing subsidies on, and recovering the full costs of, environmental and other services of high standard (e.g., water supply, sanitation, waste collection, roads, telecommunications) provided to higher-income neighbourhoods;

(vi) What has been done to improve the level of infrastructure and service provision in poorer urban areas and whether external assistance has been received for this purpose and for the adoption of an integrated approach to such improvement;

(vii) What has been done to develop local strategies for improving the quality of life and the living environment, integrating decisions on land use and land management, investing in the public and private sectors and mobilizing human and material resources, thereby promoting economic development that is environmentally sound and protective of human health;

(viii) What has been done to strengthen urban data systems;

(ix) What has been done to relieve pressure on large urban agglomerations;

(x) What has been done to review urbanization processes and policies in order to assess the environmental impacts of growth and apply urban planning and management approaches specifically suited to the needs, resource capabilities and characteristics of their growing intermediate-sized cities;

(xi) What has been done to institutionalize a participatory approach to sustainable urban development, based on a continuous dialogue between the actors involved in urban development (the public sector, private sector and communities), especially women and indigenous people;

(xii) What has been done to improve the urban environment by promoting social organization and environmental awareness through the participation of local communities in the identification of public services needs, the provision of urban infrastructure, and the enhancement of public amenities;

(xiii) What action has been taken for the formulation and implementation of local Agenda 21s.

(b) Adequate shelter

(i) Measures taken to provide shelter to the homeless poor and vulnerable groups;

(ii) How the country has adopted and/or strengthened its national shelter strategy, with targets based, as appropriate, on the principles and recommendations contained in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

(iii) What protection and enforcement there is in law against unfair eviction from homes and land;

(iv) What support there is of the shelter efforts of the urban and rural poor, the unemployed and the unserved no-income groups by adopting and/or adapting existing codes and regulations, to facilitate their access to land, finance and low-cost building materials and by actively promoting the regularization and upgrading of informal settlements and urban slums as an expedient measure and pragmatic solution to the urban shelter deficit;

(v) What access there is for the urban and rural poor to shelter by adopting and utilizing housing and finance schemes and new innovative mechanisms adapted to their circumstances;

(vi) What environmentally compatible shelter strategies there are at national, state/provincial and municipal levels through institutional arrangements put in place for their implementation, including partnerships among the private, public and community sectors and with the support of community-based organizations;

(vii) What programmes have been formulated and implemented to reduce the impact of rural-to-urban drift by improving rural living conditions;

(viii) What resettlement programmes have been developed and implemented to address the specific problems of displaced populations in their respective countries;

(ix) What system is in place to monitor the implementation of national shelter strategies by using, inter alia, the monitoring guidelines adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements and the Shelter Sector Performance Indicators being produced jointly by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the World Bank;

(x) Whether the country is the recipient of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to support the implementation of the national shelter strategy and the specific types of assistance required to do so.

D. World Trade Expo and Forum

7. Subject to a study of its feasibility, including representatives of the host country, a trade expo and forum with the theme "Building and Environmental Technology and Issues" would be designed. It would be self-financing and would have special papers, specialized forums on applied project experience, trade booths for products at different levels of sophistication, and technology demonstrations. Illustrative subjects to be covered would include:

(a) Building and building products and systems;

(b) Financing low-income shelter;

(c) Effective marketing and brokering: the role of intermediaries;

(d) Organizing and creating effective advocacy groups and national shelter and urban coalitions;

(e) Water systems (urban and rural);

(f) Environmentally sound sewerage systems (urban and rural);

(g) Insulation systems;

(h) Heat and energy systems;

(i) Electrical and plumbing systems;

(j) Environmentally sound urban energy planning, development and management projects;

(k) Effective land registration and transfer systems;

(l) Communications technology.

State-of-the-art publications could be produced on these subjects and would be an important product of the Habitat II Conference.

B. Decisions

14/21. Third report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 5 May 1993, the Commission on Human Settlements, having considered the draft, prepared by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), of the third report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, cc/ decided to incorporate into the draft the additions and amendments submitted by delegations relating to their respective countries, dd/ and to submit the revised report, together with the plan of action and timetable for 1994-1995, ee/ to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

14/22. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1994-1995

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 5 May 1993, the Commission on Human Settlements adopted the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1994-1995, ff/ with the following revisions:

Paragraph 11. (a) should read: "To assist Member Governments in integrating settlement policies with overall development policies and set up implementation mechanisms for human settlements programmes.".

The following work programme outputs and activities should be amended so as to read:

2.2.(a).01 Guidelines for rural shelter improvement, urban poverty alleviation and sustainable development;

3.5.(b).01 Three training courses on municipal institutional development in Latin America, Africa and Asia;

3.5.(b).02 Two training courses on local government management and local development (Africa, Asia and Latin America);

3.5.(b).03 Two policy seminars on local development and local government management in Latin America;

3.5.(c).01 Sixty fellowships for Latin American, African and Asian trainers and officials to attend courses on municipal institutional development;

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cc/ HS/C/14/4.

dd/ HS/C/14/4/Corr.1.

ee/ HS/C/14/4/Add.1 and Corr.2.

ff/ See HS/C/14/8.

3.5.(c).02 Forty fellowships for Latin American, African and Asian trainers and officials to attend courses on local government management and local development;

3.5.(c).03 Thirty fellowships for Latin American experts and officials to attend two policy seminars;

3.5.(c).04 Forty fellowships for African and Asian experts to attend two policy seminars (subject to availability of funds);

4.2.(a).02 Review and re-evaluation of the legislative and institutional framework for municipal revenue generation and transfers from national government to local governments;

6.2.(a).04 Water-resource needs and options for cities of different sizes;

6.2.(a).07 [Computer software for] Strategic planning for public transport improvement;

The following new work programme outputs and activities should be added, subject to availability of additional funds:

1.3.03 One ad hoc expert group meeting on comparative shelter strategy and revised guidelines under the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

3.3.01 One expert group meeting on follow-up action to the report of the Executive Director on improvement of municipal management (HS/C/14/6 and Corr.1);

4.3.01 One expert group meeting on private, public and community-sector partnerships for human settlements financing activities;

6.5.(b).02 Regional workshop on coordinated guidelines for infrastructure development;

7.2.(a).08. The role of grass-roots-level technology transfer mechanisms for enhanced shelter delivery;

8.2.(b).05 Operationalizing arrangements for South-South and North-South cooperation on building materials and technologies through regional workshops and guidelines;

The Committee decided on high- and low-priority designations for the following programme elements:

High priority:	1.1.(a).02	2.2.(a).03
	2.2.(a).03	3.2.(a).01
	1.1.(a).04	3.2.(a).05
	1.1.(a).05	3.5.(b).02
	1.1.(b).02	4.2.(a).02
	1.1.(b).09	4.3.01
	1.1.(b).10	5.2.(a).07
	2.2.(a).01	8.2.(b).02
Low priority:	1.1.(a).20	6.2.(a).03
	1.4.02	6.2.(a).05
	1.4.17	7.2.(a).01
	3.2.(a).08	

14/23. Budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1994-1995

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 5 May 1993, the Commission on Human Settlements adopted the budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1994-1995. gg/

14/24. Comprehensive triennial policy review of the operational activities of the United Nations development system

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 5 May 1993, the Commission on Human Settlements, having taken note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the comprehensive triennial policy review of the operational activities of the United Nations development system, hh/ having expressed its appreciation of the efforts made by the Centre to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992, and having taken particular note of specific actions undertaken by the Centre in that regard as recorded in the report, expressed its strong support of the initiatives undertaken by the Centre to strengthen further its substantive capacity to provide policy advice and technical support at the country level, including expanding both the Centre's support programme for in-country human settlements analysis and needs assessments, as well as the Centre's Shelter Sector Indicators Programme, and, further, endorsed the Centre's efforts to raise additional extrabudgetary resources, to expand the coverage of those and other programmes which were directly related to the type of in-country capacity-building efforts called for by the General Assembly resolution.

14/25. Themes for consideration by the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session

At its 7th plenary meeting, on 5 May 1993, the Commission on Human Settlements, recalling its resolution 10/9 of 16 May 1987 regarding the selection of two themes for each session, and having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) entitled "Themes for consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session", ii/ decided to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare the following two theme papers for the fifteenth session: (a) Review of national action to provide housing for all since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements; (b) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, including issues related to land policies and mitigation of natural disasters in human settlements, and to take up at its sixteenth session the themes: "The contribution of the private and non-governmental sectors to shelter delivery to low-income groups" and "The management of natural resources in the context of sustainable human settlements".

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gg/ See HS/C/14/9 and Corr.1 and 2.

hh/ HS/C/14/14/Add.2.

ii/ HS/C/14/15.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Commission

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
		Letter of convocation
		Notification by the Executive Director
		Letter on special presentations
		Letter on pledging for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation
3	HS/C/14/1	Provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements
3	HS/C/14/1/Add.1 and Corr.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda: note by the Secretariat
4	HS/C/14/2	Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/14/2/Add.1 (and Corr.1 Spanish only)	Housing requirements of the Palestinian people: report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/14/2/Add.2	The relationship between underemployment and unemployment and shelter provision: report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/14/2/Add.3	Women's participation in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the year 2000: report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/14/2/Add.4 (and Corr.1 Spanish only)	Meeting on Governmental-Non-governmental Cooperation in the Field of Human Settlements: report of the Executive Director
5	HS/C/14/3	Implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000: report of the Executive Director
5	HS/C/14/3/Add.1	Shelter sector performance indicators: report of the Executive Director
5	HS/C/14/4 and Corr.1	Third report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
5	HS/C/14/4/Add.1 and Corr.1 (Spanish only), and Corr.2	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000: proposed plan of action and timetable for 1994-1995
6	HS/C/14/5	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: report of the Executive Director
7 (a)	HS/C/14/6 (and Corr.1, English only)	Improvement of municipal management: report of the Executive Director
7 (b)	HS/C/14/7	Building materials for housing: report of the Executive Director
8	HS/C/14/8	Draft work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1994-1995: report of the Executive Director
9	HS/C/14/9 and Corr.1 and 2	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1994-1995: report of the Executive Director
9	HS/C/14/9/Add.1	Proposed budget of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
9	HS/C/14/9/Add.2	Financial matters: Use of extrabudgetary resources of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the 1994-1995 period
10	HS/C/14/10	Financial and other assistance provided to and among developing countries for human settlements: report of the Executive Director
10 (a)	HS/C/14/11	Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme
10 (b)	HS/C/14/12	Coordination and cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system: report of the Executive Director
10 (b)	HS/C/14/13	Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations: report of the Executive Director

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
10 (c)	HS/C/14/14	Matters arising out of the resolutions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission: note by the secretariat
12	HS/C/14/14/Add.1	United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): Substantive issues and draft guidelines for preparations and reporting at the country level
10 (c)	HS/C/14/14/Add.2	Comprehensive triennial policy review of the operational activities of the United Nations development system: report of the Executive Director
11	HS/C/14/15	Themes for consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session: report of the Executive Director
3	HS/C/14/16	Agenda for the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements
14	HS/C/14/17	Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements
10 (c)	HS/C/14/CRP.1	Main decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly (forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions) of relevance to the work of the Commission: note by the secretariat
8	HS/C/14/CRP.2	Draft work programmes of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements for the biennium 1994-1995: note by the secretariat
7 (a)	HS/C/14/CRP.3	Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) towards the improvement of municipal management: note by the secretariat
9	HS/C/14/CRP.4	United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 1991 and report of the Board of Auditors
12	HS/C/14/CRP.5	Resolutions relating to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
4	HS/C/14/CRP.6 and Add.1	Draft resolutions
12	HS/C/14/CRP.7 and Add.1	Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
10 (c)	HS/C/14/CRP.8	Matters arising out of the resolutions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission
3	HS/C/14/INF.1	State of preparedness of documents for the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session as at 1 March 1993: note by the secretariat
3	HS/C/14/INF.2/Rev.1	List of documents before the Commission
4	HS/C/14/INF.3	Operational Activities Report, 1993 (UNCHS, Nairobi, 1993)
4	HS/C/14/INF.4	Report of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat 1992 Conference on Human Settlements and Development, Vancouver, 15-20 March 1992
5	HS/C/14/INF.5/Rev.1	Results of the first phase of the application of the indicators of women's participation in shelter strategies at the community level in urban informal settlements: note by the secretariat
9	HS/C/14/INF.6	Status of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as at 1 March 1993: note by the secretariat
5	HS/C/14/INF.7	Enhancing the role of women in development: proceedings of an ad hoc expert group meeting: note by the secretariat
3	HS/C/14/INF.8/Rev.1	List of participants
3	HS/C/14/INF.9	Organization of work
9	HS/C/14/INF.10	Utilization of project funds under the proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1994-1995

ANNEX III

List of audio-visual presentations

Country	Title	Language	Duration (minutes)
Austria	Twintownship for improvement of municipal management	English	11
Burkina Faso	Utilisation des matériaux locaux au Burkina Faso	French	13
Colombia	Programa de apoyo al desarrollo institucional de los municipios	Spanish	17
Colombia	High risk zones	English	13
India	A better future	English	13
India	A better way to buiid	English	16
Islamic Republic of Iran	New life in Iran	English	35
Kenya	Appropriate building technologies for shelter development in Kenya	English	12
Namibia	Build together: National Housing Programme of Namibia	English	18
Senegal	Habitat coopératif du Sénégal	French	16
Syrian Arab Republic	Experiment in pre-fabricated buildings	Arabic	15
Turkey	Union of International Contractors of Turkey	English	9
United States of America	How families use infrastructure in their own development (seminar and slide presentation)	English	45
Zimbabwe	Mass housing production	English	15

ANNEX IV

Summaries of statements

A. Statement by the Honourable E. C. Chikowore, Minister of Public Construction of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements at its thirteenth session

In his statement to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session, the Chairman of the thirteenth session welcomed delegates, congratulated the Officer-in-Charge on her appointment and thanked the Government of Kenya for its hospitality. He commended the secretariat for its effort to implement the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its thirteenth session, stressed the importance of the current session initiating concrete measures, and, in particular, underscored the importance of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. He took note of the secretariat's increased efforts to support Governments in formulating and implementing national shelter strategies which conform with the guidelines of the Global Strategy. The Chairman then called on delegates to redouble their efforts to implement the Global Strategy so that concrete results could be reported to the Commission at its fifteenth session. The Chairman stressed the importance of resource mobilization at all levels for shelter, as well as international cooperation to reduce the shelter problems in developing countries. In closing, the Chairman drew the attention of delegates to the upcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Turkey in 1996, for which the preparatory process had already begun.

B. Inaugural address by Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Under-Secretary-General and Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

In her address, the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS) noted both the processes of change sweeping the globe which had increased responsibilities and placed new demands on the United Nations, including UNCHS, as well as the expectations that those new tasks be carried out effectively. In the light of increasing urbanization and the key role of human settlements, particularly of urban settlements, in sustainable development from the social, economic and environmental perspectives, the Officer-in-Charge suggested a number of major directions and thrusts for the work of the Commission on Human Settlements and the secretariat, those being the improvement of the living environment, primarily through the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter; community development; the urban environment; and settlements management. Improvements and success in all four areas would lead to great progress being made in poverty alleviation and in ensuring sustainable human settlements growth and development in the twenty-first century. In pursuing those directions for their work, both the Commission and the Centre would also make substantial progress in meeting the human settlements objectives of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

The Officer-in-Charge also suggested that the future work should be guided by the principles of decentralization, participation and partnership. While stressing the need for cooperation with a broad range of non-public actors, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and community and women's groups, the Officer-in-Charge also emphasized the need for cooperation among United Nations agencies. In that connection, she explained the nature of

the new relationship between UNCHS and the United Nations Environment Programme under common direction, and briefly elaborated on the opportunities for cooperation between the two organizations provided by this common direction.

Finally, the Officer-in-Charge underscored the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), pointing out that it was a tremendous challenge and great opportunity for the work of both the Commission and the Centre, as well as for all Governments.

The Officer-in-Charge noted the objectives of the Conference and thanked the Government of Turkey for graciously offering to be host to the Conference in 1996. The Officer-in-Charge then pointed out to delegates that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) had requested the Commission at its current session to provide it with recommendations on substantive issues for the Conference as well as draft guidelines for consideration and adoption by the Committee so as to enable Member States to take a harmonized approach in their preparations for, and reporting to, the Conference.

In closing, the Officer-in-Charge thanked the former Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, for his contribution to the work and growth of the Centre since its inception.

C. Inaugural address by His Excellency the Honourable Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya

In his inaugural address, the President of the Republic of Kenya underscored the importance of the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and noted that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had recognized the role of the Commission on Human Settlements and the Centre as the most effective in the implementation of the human settlements aspects of Agenda 21. While pointing to the centrality of human settlements in the management of the environment, the President noted, however, the deterioration of human settlements world wide in recent years. In particular, while pointing to the growing refugee problem in East Africa, he expressed the hope that the session would bear in mind the environment and shelter conditions of refugees.

Turning to the political changes in South Africa, the President pointed out that it was necessary for these changes to be accompanied by technical and financial assistance in the area of human settlements.

As for the Habitat II Conference, the President expressed the view that the Conference would be central to the human settlements activities of the United Nations as well as an opportunity both to assess the work of the Commission and the Centre since 1976 and to focus on future human settlements challenges as spelled out in Agenda 21.

The President welcomed the fact that the issue of municipal management would be addressed during the session and also briefly described Kenya's own efforts in the development of affordable building materials and technologies.